

# Conjunctions and Interjections

## Coordinating Conjunctions

**3i.** A **conjunction** is a word that joins words or word groups.

**EXAMPLES** They have planted trees, shrubs, bushes, **and** flowers in the backyard. [The conjunction *and* joins the words *trees, shrubs, bushes, and flowers*.]

**Either** you must put your costume on now, **or** you will be late for your entrance. [The conjunctions *Either* and *or* join the clauses *you must put your costume on now* and *you will be late for your entrance*.]

*Coordinating conjunctions* join words to words, phrases to phrases, and clauses to clauses.

The coordinating conjunctions are *and, but, for, nor, or, so, and yet*.

**EXAMPLES** Eric **or** David [The conjunction *or* joins two words.]

in the air **and** on the ground [The conjunction *and* joins the two phrases *in the air* and *on the ground*.]

We played our best, **but** we lost to a better team. [The conjunction *but* joins the two clauses *We played our best* and *we lost to a better team*.]

**EXERCISE A** Underline the coordinating conjunction in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** The restaurant was closed, so they made sandwiches instead. [The conjunction *so* joins the two clauses *The restaurant was closed* and *they made sandwiches instead*.]

1. I have soccer practice on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons. [Which word joins the nouns *Monday, Wednesday, and Friday*?]
2. He said that all of the baseballs or bats have been returned to the store.
3. The cat did not run away, nor did it come closer.
4. We wanted to watch the parade, but we couldn't see over the crowd.
5. Find some books on that subject, for your research is due Monday.

## Correlative Conjunctions

*Correlative conjunctions* are pairs of conjunctions. The pairs work together to join words to words, phrases to phrases, and clauses to clauses.

The correlative conjunctions are

both . . . and

not only . . . but also

either . . . or

whether . . . or

neither . . . nor

**EXAMPLE** **Not only** did I finish the book, **but I also** wrote my report. [The pair of conjunctions joins the two clauses *did I finish the book* and *I wrote my report*.]

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**EXERCISE B** Underline the correlative conjunctions in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Either I can make macaroni for dinner, or I can serve salad. [The conjunction

*Either ... or* joins the clauses *I can make macaroni* and *I can serve salad*.]

6. Neither Alice nor Paula expected the cats to get along. [Which words join the words *Alice* and *Paula*?]
7. Dad isn't sure whether William Safire or Ellen Goodman is his favorite journalist.
8. My sister will take either Spanish or French next semester.
9. That type of grass not only prevents erosion but also requires little water.
10. We have seen both sparrows and cardinals at the birdbath.

## Interjections

**3j.** An **interjection** is a word that expresses emotion.

An interjection can be left out of a sentence without changing the meaning of the sentence. Commonly used interjections include *aha*, *ouch*, *wow*, *oh*, *yikes*, *hurray*, *oops*, *well*, and *yippee*.

Interjections that express strong emotion are followed by an exclamation point.

**EXAMPLES** **Yikes!** You scared me!

What a great ending! **Wow!**

Interjections that express mild emotion are separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma.

**EXAMPLES** **Well**, I guess we will have to start again.

That tree is, **oh**, about three hundred years old. [Notice that an interjection in the middle of a sentence is set off by two commas.]

**EXERCISE C** Underline the interjection in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Wow! There's no telling how much Marsha's cat weighs. [The interjection *Wow* expresses a strong emotion.]

11. Whew! You finished the exam twenty minutes early! [Which word expresses a strong emotion?]
12. We could have eaten the leftover lasagna, but, well, I think my brother got to it first.
13. Oops! I meant to go the other way.
14. Our team won the state championship! Hurray!
15. I would like to introduce you to her, but, oh, I don't know where she went.